of which was, fortunately, not at the time generally understood by our people.

Though the contract mentioned stayed for a time the tide of gold withdrawal, its good results could not be permanent. Recent withdrawals have reduced the reserve from $107,571,230 on the 8th day of July, 1895, to $79,333,966. How long it will remain large enough to render its increase unnecessary is only matter of conjecture, though quite large withdrawals for shipment in the immediate future are predicted in well-informed quarters. About $16,000,000 has been withdrawn during the month of November.

The foregoing statement of events and conditions develops the fact that after increasing our interest-bearing bonded indebtedness more than $162,000,000 to save our gold reserve we are nearly where we started, having now in such reserve $79,333,966, as against $65,438,377 in February, 1894, when the first bonds were issued.

Though the amount of gold drawn from the Treasury appears to be very large, as gathered from the facts and figures herein presented, it actually was much larger, considerable sums having been acquired by the Treasury within the several periods stated without the issue of bonds. On the 28th of January, 1895, it was reported by the Secretary of the Treasury that more than $172,000,000 of gold had been withdrawn for hoarding or shipment during the year preceding. He now reports that from January 1, 1879, to July 14, 1890, a period of more than eleven years, only a little over $28,000,000 was withdrawn, and that between July 14, 1890, the date of the passage of the law for an increased purchase of silver, and the 1st day of December, 1895, or within less than five and a half years, there was withdrawn nearly $375,000,000, making a total of more than $403,000,000 drawn from the Treasury in gold since January 1, 1879, the date fixed in 1875 for the retirement of the United States notes.

Nearly $327,000,000 of the gold thus withdrawn has been paid out on these United States notes; and yet every one of the $346,000,000 is still uncancelled and ready to do service in future gold depletions.

More than $76,000,000 in gold has, since their creation in 1890, been paid out from the Treasury upon the notes given on the purchase of silver by the Government; and yet the whole, amounting to $155,000,000, except a little more than $16,000,000, which have been retired by exchanges for silver at the request of the holders, remains outstanding and prepared to join their older and more experienced allies in future raids upon the Treasury's gold reserve.

In other words, the Government has paid in gold more than nine-tenths of its United States notes and still owes them all. It has paid in gold about one-half of its notes given for silver purchases without extinguishing by such payment one dollar of these notes.

When added to all this we are reminded that to carry on this astounding financial scheme the Government has incurred a bonded indebtedness of $95,500,000 in establishing a gold reserve, and of $162,315,400 in efforts to maintain it; that the annual interest charge on such bonded indebtedness is more than $11,000,000; that a continuance in our present course may result in further bond issues, and that we have suffered or are threatened with all this for the sake of supplying gold for foreign shipment or facilitating its hoarding at home, a situation is exhibited which certainly ought to arrest attention and provoke immediate legislative relief.

The Retirement of the Greenbacks.

I am convinced the only thorough and practicable remedy for our troubles is found in the retirement and cancellation of our United States notes, commonly called greenbacks, and the outstanding Treasury notes issued by the Government in payment of silver purchases under the act of 1890.

I believe this could be quite readily accomplished by the exchange of these notes for United States bonds of small as well as large denominations, bearing a low rate of interest. They should be long-term bonds, thus increasing their desirability as investments, and because their payment could be well postponed to a period far removed from present financial burdens and perplexities, when with increased prosperity and resources they would be more easily met.

To further insure the cancellation of these notes and also provide a way by which gold may be added to our currency in lieu of them, a feature in the plan should be an authority given to the Secretary of the Treasury to dispose of the bonds abroad for gold if necessary to complete the contemplated redemption and cancellation, permitting him to use the proceeds of such bonds to take up and cancel any of the notes that may be in the Treasury or that may be received by the Government on any account.

The increase of our bonded debt involved in this plan would be amply compensated by renewed activity and enterprise in all business circles, the restored confidence at home, the reinstated faith in our monetary strength abroad, and the stimulation of every interest and industry that would follow the cancellation of the gold-demand obligations now afflicting us. In any event the bonds proposed would stand for the extinguishment of a troublesome indebtedness, while in the path we now follow there lurks the menace of unending bonds, with our indebtedness still undischarged and aggravated in every feature. The obligations necessary to fund this indebtedness would not equal in amount those from which we have been relieved since 1884 by anticipation and payment, beyond the requirements of the sinking fund, out of our surplus revenues.

The currency withdrawn by the retirement of the United States notes and Treasury notes, amounting to probably less than $486,000,000, might be supplied by such gold as would be used on their retirement or by an increase in the circulation of our national banks. Though the aggregate capital of those now in existence amounts to more than $664,000,000, their outstanding circulation based on bond security amounts to only about $190,000,000. They are authorized to issue notes amounting to ninety per cent of the bonds deposited to secure their circulation, but in no event beyond the amount of their capital stock, and they are obliged to pay one per cent tax on the circulation they issue.

National Bank Circulation.

I think they should be allowed to issue circulation equal to the par value of the bonds they deposit to secure it, and that the tax on their circulation should be reduced to one-fourth of one per cent, which would undoubtedly meet all the expense the Government incurs on their account. In addition they should be allowed to substitute or deposit in lieu of the bonds now required as security for their circulation those which would be issued for the purpose of retiring the United States notes and Treasury notes.

The banks already existing, if they desired to avail themselves of the provisions of law thus modified, could issue circulation in addition to that already outstanding, amounting to $478,000,000, which would nearly or quite equal the currency proposed to be cancelled. At any rate, I should confidently expect to see the existing national banks or others to be organized avail themselves of the proposed encouragements to issue circulation, and promptly fill any vacuum and supply every currency need.

It has always seemed to me that the provisions of law regarding the capital of national banks which operate as a limitation to their location fail to make proper compensation for the suppression of State banks, which came near to the people in all sections of the country and readily furnished them with banking accommodations and facilities. Any inconvenience or embarrassment arising from these restrictions on the location of national banks might well be remedied by better adapting the present system to the creation of banks in smaller communities or by permitting banks of large capital to establish branches in such localities as would serve the people—so regulated and restrained as to secure their safe and conservative control and management.

But there might not be the necessity for such an addition to the currency by new issues of bank circulation as at first glance is indicated. If we should be relieved from maintaining a gold reserve under conditions that constitute it the barometer of our solvency, and if our Treasury should no longer be the foolish purveyor of gold for nations abroad or for speculation and hoarding by our citizens at home, I should expect to see gold resume its natural and normal functions in the business affairs of the country and cease to be an object attracting the timid watch of our people and exciting their sensitive imaginations.

I do not overlook the fact that the cancellation of the Treasury notes issued under the silver-purchasing act of 1890 would leave the Treasury in the actual ownership of sufficient silver, including seigniorage, to coin nearly $178,000,000 in standard dollars. It is worthy of consideration whether this might not, from time to time, be converted into dollars or fractional coin and slowly put into circulation, as in the judgment of the Secretary of the Treasury the necessities of the country should require.

Whatever is attempted should be entered upon fully appreciating the fact that by careless, easy descent we have reached a dangerous depth, and that our ascent will not be accomplished without laborious toil and struggle. We shall be wise if we realize that we are financially ill and that our restoration to health may require heroic treatment and unpleasant remedies.

In the present stage of our difficulty it is not easy to understand how the amount of our revenue receipts directly affects it. The important question is not the quantity of money received in revenue payments, but the kind of money we maintain and our ability to continue in sound financial condition. We are considering the Government's holdings of gold as related to the soundness of our money and as affecting our national credit and monetary strength.

If our gold reserve had never been impaired; if no bonds had ever been issued to replenish it; if there had been no fear and timidity concerning our ability to continue gold payments; if any part of our revenues were now paid in gold, and if we could look to our gold receipts as a means of maintaining a safe reserve, the amount of our revenues would be an influential factor in the problem. But unfortunately all the circumstances that might lend weight to this consideration are entirely lacking.

In our present predicament no gold is received by the Government in payment of revenue charges, nor would there be if the revenues were increased. The receipts of the Treasury, when not in silver certificates, consist of United States notes and Treasury notes issued for silver purchases. These forms of money are only useful to the Government in paying its current ordinary expenses, and its quantity in Government possession does not in the least contribute toward giving us that kind of safe financial standing or condition which is built on gold alone.

If it is said that these notes if held by the Government can be used to obtain gold for our reserve, the answer is easy. The people draw gold from the Treasury on demand upon United States notes and Treasury notes, but the proposition that the Treasury can on demand draw gold from the people upon them would be regarded in these days with wonder and amusement. And even if this could be done, there is nothing to prevent those thus parting with their gold from regaining it the next day or the next hour by the presentation of the notes they received in exchange for it.

The Secretary of the Treasury might use such notes taken from a surplus revenue to buy gold in the market. Of course he could not do this without paying a premium. Private holders of gold, unlike the Government, having no parity to maintain, would not be restrained from making the best bargain possible when they furnished gold to the Treasury; but the moment the Secretary of the Treasury bought gold on any terms above par he would establish a general and universal premium upon it, thus breaking down the parity between gold and silver which the Government is pledged to maintain, and opening the way to new and serious complications. In the meantime the premium would not remain stationary, and the absurd spectacle might be presented of a dealer selling gold to the Government, and with United States notes or Treasury notes in his hand immediately clamoring for its return and a resale at a higher premium.

It may be claimed that a large revenue and redundant receipts might favorably affect the situation under discussion by affording an opportunity of retaining these notes in the Treasury when received, and thus preventing their presentation for gold. Such retention to be useful ought to be at least measurably permanent; and this is precisely what is prohibited, so far as United States notes are concerned, by the law of 1878 forbidding their further retirement. That statute in so many words provides that these notes when received into the Treasury and belonging to the United States shall be "paid out again and kept in circulation."

It will, moreover, be readily seen that the Government could not refuse to pay out United States notes and Treasury notes in current transactions when demanded and insist on paying out silver alone and still maintain the parity between that metal and the currency representing gold. Besides, the accumulation in the Treasury of currency of any kind exacted from the people through taxation is justly regarded as an evil, and it can not proceed far without vigorous protest against an unjustifiable retention of money from the business of the country and a denunciation of a scheme of taxation which proves itself to be unjust when it takes from the earnings and income of the citizen money so much in excess of the needs of Government support that large sums can be gathered and kept in the Treasury. Such a condition has heretofore in times of surplus revenue led the Government to restore currency to the people by the purchase of its unmatured bonds at a large premium and by a large increase of its deposits in national banks, and we easily remember that the abuse of Treasury accumulation has furnished a most persuasive argument in favor of legislation radically reducing our tariff taxation.

Perhaps it is supposed that sufficient revenue receipts would in a sentimental way improve the situation, by inspiring confidence in our solvency and allaying the fear of pecuniary exhaustion. And yet through all our struggles to maintain our gold reserve there never has been any apprehension as to our ready ability to pay our way with such money as we had; and the question whether or not our current receipts met our current expenses has not entered into the estimate of our solvency. Of course the general state of our funds, exclusive of gold, was entirely immaterial to the foreign creditor and investor. His debt could only be paid in gold, and his only concern was our ability to keep on hand that kind of money.

On July 1, 1892, more than a year and a half before the first bonds were issued to replenish the gold reserve, there was a net balance in the Treasury, exclusive of such reserve, of less than $13,000,000; but the gold reserve amounted to more than $114,000,000, which was the quieting feature of the situation. It was when the stock of gold began rapidly to fall that fright supervened and our securities held abroad were returned for sale and debts owed abroad were pressed for payment. In the meantime extensive shipments of gold and other unfavorable indications caused restlessness and fright among our people at home. Thereupon the general state of our funds, exclusive of gold, became also immaterial to them, and they, too, drew gold from the Treasury for hoarding against all contingencies. This is plainly shown by the large increase in the proportion of gold withdrawn which was retained by our own people as time and threatening incidents progressed. During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1894, nearly $85,000,000 in gold was withdrawn from the Treasury and about $77,000,000 was sent abroad, while during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1895, over $117,000,000 was drawn out, of which only about $66,000,000 was shipped, leaving the large balance of such withdrawals to be accounted for by domestic hoarding.

Inasmuch as the withdrawal of our gold has resulted largely from fright, there is nothing apparent that will prevent its continuance or recurrence, with its natural consequences, except such a change in our financial methods as will reassure the frightened and make the desire for gold less intense. It is not clear how an increase in revenue, unless it be in gold, can satisfy those whose only anxiety is to gain gold from the Government's store.

It can not therefore be safe to rely upon increased revenues as a cure for our present troubles.

Not a Question of Revenue.

It is possible that the suggestion of increased revenue as a remedy for the difficulties we are considering may have originated in an intimation or distinct allegation that the bonds which have been issued ostensibly to replenish our gold reserve were really issued to supply insufficient revenue. Nothing can be further from the truth. Bonds were issued to obtain gold for the maintenance of our national credit. As has been shown, the gold thus obtained has been drawn again from the Treasury upon United States notes and Treasury notes. This operation would have been promptly prevented if possible; but these notes having thus been passed to the Treasury, they became the money of the Government, like any other ordinary Government funds, and there was nothing to do but to use them in paying Government expenses when needed.

At no time when bonds have been issued has there been any consideration of the question of paying the expenses of Government with their proceeds. There was no necessity to consider that question. At the time of each bond issue we had a safe surplus in the Treasury for ordinary operations, exclusive of the gold in our reserve. In February, 1894, when the first issue of bonds was made, such surplus amounted to over $18,000,000; in November, when the second issue was made, it amounted to more than $42,000,000, and in February, 1895, when bonds for the third time were issued, such surplus amounted to more than $100,000,000. It now amounts to $98,072,420.30.

Besides all this, the Secretary of the Treasury had no authority whatever to issue bonds to increase the ordinary revenues or pay current expenses.

I can not but think there has been some confusion of ideas regarding the effects of the issue of bonds and the results of the withdrawal of gold. It was the latter process and not the former that by substituting in the Treasury United States notes and Treasury notes for gold increased by their amount the money which was in the first instance subject to ordinary Government expenditure.

Although the law compelling an increased purchase of silver by the Government was passed on the 14th day of July, 1890, withdrawals of gold from the Treasury upon the notes given in payment on such purchases did not begin until October, 1891. Immediately following that date the withdrawals upon both these notes and United States notes increased very largely, and have continued to such an extent that since the passage of that law there has been more than thirteen times as much gold taken out of the Treasury upon United States notes and Treasury notes issued for silver purchases as was thus withdrawn during the eleven and a half years immediately prior thereto and after the 1st day of January, 1879, when specie payments were resumed.

It is neither unfair nor unjust to charge a large share of our present financial perplexities and dangers to the operation of the laws of 1878 and 1890 compelling the purchase of silver by the Government, which not only furnished a new Treasury obligation upon which its gold could be withdrawn, but so increased the fear of an overwhelming flood of silver and a forced descent to silver payments that even the repeal of these laws did not entirely cure the evils of their existence.

Free Silver.

While I have endeavored to make a plain statement of the disordered condition of our currency and the present dangers menacing our prosperity, and to suggest a way which leads to a safer financial system, I have constantly had in mind the fact that many of my countrymen, whose sincerity I do not doubt, insist that the cure for the ills now threatening us may be found in the single and simple remedy of the free coinage of silver. They contend that our mints shall be at once thrown open to the free, unlimited and independent coinage of both gold and silver dollars of full legal-tender quality, regardless of the action of any other government and in full view of the fact that the ratio between the metals which they suggest calls for one hundred cents' worth of gold in the gold dollar at the present standard, and only fifty cents in intrinsic worth of silver in the silver dollar.

Were there infinitely stronger reasons than can be adduced for hoping that such action would secure for us a bimetallic currency moving on lines of parity, an experiment so novel and hazardous as that proposed might well stagger those who believe that stability is an imperative condition of sound money.

No government, no human contrivance or act of legislation, has ever been able to hold the two metals together in free coinage at a ratio appreciably different from that which is established in the markets of the world.

Those who believe that our independent free coinage of silver at an artificial ratio with gold of 16 to 1 would restore the parity between the metals, and consequently between the coins, oppose an unsupported and improbable theory to the general belief and practice of other nations, and to the teaching of the wisest statesmen and economists of the world, both in the past and present, and, what is far more conclusive, they run counter to our own actual experiences.

Twice in our earlier history our lawmakers in attempting to establish a bimetallic currency undertook free coinage upon a ratio which accidently varied from the actual relative values of the two metals not more than three per cent. In both cases, notwithstanding greater difficulties and cost of transportation than now exist, the coins whose intrinsic worth was undervalued in the ratio, gradually and surely disappeared from our circulation and went to other countries where their real value was better recognized.

Acts of Congress were impotent to create equality where natural causes decreed even a slight inequality.

Twice in our recent history we have signally failed to raise by legislation the value of silver. Under an act of Congress passed in 1878 the Government was required for more than twelve years to expend annually at least $24,000,000 in the purchase of silver bullion for coinage. The act of July 14, 1890, in a still bolder effort increased the amount of silver the Government was compelled to purchase, and forced it to become the buyer annually of 54,000,000 ounces, or practically the entire product of our mines. Under both laws silver rapidly and steadily declined in value. The prophecy and the expressed hope and expectation of those in the Congress who led in the passage of the last-mentioned act, that it would re-establish and maintain the former parity between the two metals, are still fresh in our memory.

In the light of these experiences, which accord with the experiences of other nations, there is certainly no secure ground for the belief that an act of Congress could now bridge an inequality of fifty per cent between gold and silver at our present ratio, nor is there the least possibility that our country, which has less than one-seventh of the silver money in the world, could by its action alone raise not only our own but all silver to its lost ratio with gold. Our attempt to accomplish this by the free coinage of silver at a ratio differing widely from actual relative values would be the signal for the complete departure of gold from our circulation, the immediate and large contraction of our circulating medium, and a shrinkage in the real value and monetary efficiency of all other forms of currency as they settled to the level of silver monometallism. Everyone who receives a fixed salary and every worker for wages would find the dollar in his hand ruthlessly scaled down to the point of bitter disappointment if not to pinching privation.

A change in our standard to silver monometallism would also bring on a collapse of the entire system of credit which, when based on a standard which is recognized and adopted by the world of business, is many times more potent and useful than the entire volume of currency and is safely capable of almost indefinite expansion to meet the growth of trade and enterprise. In a self-invited struggle through darkness and uncertainty our humiliation would be increased by the consciousness that we had parted company with all the enlightened and progressive nations of the world, and were desperately and hopelessly striving to meet the stress of modern commerce and competition with a debased and unsuitable currency and in association with the few weak and laggard nations which have silver alone as their standard of value.

All history warns us against rash experiments which threaten violent changes in our monetary standard and the degradation of our currency. The past is full of lessons teaching not only the economic dangers, but the national immorality that follows in the tarin of such experiments. I will not believe that the American people can be persuaded after sober deliberation to jeopardize their nation's prestige and proud standing by encouraging financial nostrums, nor that they will yield to the false allurements of cheap money, when they realize that it must result in the weakening of that financial integrity and rectitude which thus far in our history has been so devotedly cherished as one of the traits of true Americanism.

Our country's indebtedness, whether owing by the Government or existing between individuals, has been contracted with reference to our present standard. To decree by act of Congress that these debts shall be payable in less valuable dollars than those within the contemplation and intention of the parties when contracted, would operate to transfer, by the fiat of law and without compensation, an amount of property and a volume of rights and interests almost incalculable.

Those who advocate a blind and headlong plunge to free coinage in the name of bimetallism and professing the belief, contrary to all experience, that we could thus establish a double standard and a concurrent circulation of both metals in our coinage, are certainly reckoning from a cloudy standpoint. Our present standard of value is the standard of the civilized world and permits the only bimetallism now possible, or at least that is within the independent reach of any single nation, however powerful that nation may be. While the value of gold as a standard is steadied by almost universal commercial and business use, it does not despise silver nor seek its banishment. Wherever this standard is maintained there is at its side in free and unquestioned circulation a volume of silver currency sometimes equaling and sometimes even exceeding it in amount, both maintained at a parity notwithstanding a depreciation or fluctuation in the intrinsic value of silver.

A Fixed Standard.

There is a vast difference between a standard of value and a currency for monetary use. The standard must necessarily be fixed and certain. The currency may be in divers forms and of various kinds. No silver-standard country has a gold currency in circulation; but an enlightened and wise system of finance secures the benefits of both gold and silver as currency and circulating medium by keeping the standard stable and other currency at par with it. Such a system and such a standard also give free scope for the use and expansion of safe and conservative credit, so indispensable to broad and growing commercial transactions and so well substituted for the actual use of money. If a fixed and stable standard is maintained such as the magnitude and safety of our commercial transactions and business require, the use of money itself is conveniently minimized.

Every dollar of fixed and stable value has through the agency of confident credit an astonishing capacity of multiplying itself in financial work. Every unstable and fluctuating dollar fails as a basis of credit, and in its use begets gambling speculation and undermines the foundations of honest enterprise.

I have ventured to express myself on this subject with earnestness and plainness of speech because I canot rid myself of the belief that there lurks in the proposition for the free coinage of silver, so strongly approved and so enthusiastically advocated by a multitude of my countrymen, a serious menace to our prosperity and an insidious temptation of our people to wander from the allegiance they owe to public and private integrity. It is because I do not distrust the good faith and sincerity of those who press this scheme that I have imperfectly but with zeal submitted my thoughts upon this momentous subject. I cannot refrain from begging them to re-examine their views and beliefs in the light of patriotic reason and familiar experience, and to weigh again and again the consequences of such legislation as their efforts have invited. Even the continued agitation of the subject adds greatly to the difficulties of a dangerous financial situation already forced upon us.

In conclusion I especially entreat the people's representatives in the Congress, who are charged with the responsibility of inaugurating masures for the safety and prosperity of our common country, to promptly and effectively consider the ills of our critical financial plight. I have suggested a remedy which my judgment approves. I desire, however, to assure the Congress that I am prepared to co-operate with them in perfecting any other measure promising thorough and practical relief, and that I will gladly labor with them in every patriotic endeavor to further the interests and guard the welfare of our countrymen whom in our respective places of duty we have undertaken to serve.

GROVER CLEVELAND.

Executive Mansion,
December 2, 1895.

IN A SLEEPING CAR.

The Deplorable Result of a Change of Berths Made Late at Night.

From the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.

"My friend and I had secured two lower berths opposite each other. He was not a smoker, so he concluded to tumble in, while I went forward to the smoking compartment for a cigar before I followed his example. Possibly I found the game of cards which was in progress between two commercial travelers interesting, or else the cigar was more soothing than usual; but however it was, I remained longer than I had intended.

"In the meantime we had made a stop and taken on a couple of passengers—an aged couple of dignified and aristocratic appearance. Every lower berth was taken and over half of the uppers, so the worthy pair were not jubilant over the prospect of climbing into an upper berth, and their objections were plainly audible to others than the porter. At last that sable gallant, driven to his wits' end, came in to where I sat placidly smoking, apparently unconscious of what had been going on in the car. With a deprecating air, he approached and asked me if I would exchange my lower berth for an upper in favor of the old people. I readily assented, and the couple, grateful and contented, immediately took possession, and judging from the duo of discordant vocal sounds which soon emanated from "lower 10," they had fallen into peaceful slumber.

"In the meantime my friend, being a heavy sleeper, was quite unconscious of the change that had been made in the arrangements. So, early in the morning he crawled out and proceeded to get his shoes from under the berth, sitting upon the edge of the bed while he leisurely drew on one shoe. Then he began to think I had enjoyed myself undisturbed quite long enough, and commenced to shake the curtains and call me to get up. Meeting with no response, he concluded to make it more effectual, so he calmly drew aside the curtains, noticing nothing unusual in the dim light, and gave several resounding slaps with the remaining shoe upon the most obvious portion of the anatomy. At the same time he called out, 'Come, aren't you ever going to get up?'

"For answer several feminine shrieks rent the air, while two wrathful faces rose up and confronted my friend, who shrank back aghast. Every head popped out between the curtains, my own included, but quickly grasping the situation, I sank back convulsed. In the meantime the porter had appeared, and in due course of time and with many explanations succeeded in pacifying the aged couple."

NEW ORGANIZATION FAVORED.

District Assembly 49 Believes K. of L. Socialists Should Keep Together.

The meeting of District Assembly 49 of the Knights of Labor of New York, which lasted from 8 o'clock Sunday evening until 2 o'clock yesterday morning, resulted in the passage of resolutions advocating the formation of a new international organization, to be composed of the socialistic element of the Knights of Labor throughout the country.

WHAT WILL CHICAGO GIVE?

Canvassing Business Men to See if They Want the Republican Convention.

Chicago will try to settle the question of the national republican convention within the next three days. J. C. Irving, president of the committee having the matter in charge, has sent out notices to the members of the working body to canvass among business men at once, and to have a final report ready for the meeting at the Union League Club tomorrow. National Committeeman Campbell leaves for Washington tomorrow evening, and he wants to have some decisive offer from Chicago.

WHAT TO CALL THE BABY.

Difficulties of Parents in Selecting Names of Their Offspring.

From the New York World.

The names Molly and Polly, Annie and Nan, Maggie and Peggie, Nancy and Nan, are just as much in vogue today as in the olden time, and in all probability will continue to be given as Christian names to baby girls for all time.

We do not find French women taking their ancestors to task for bestowing upon them ungainly names, for the taste of the French in names is proverbial. There is no Peggie in the French tongue. When they tired of Mary they changed it to the sweet name Marie. Ann became Annette, sprightly and bright.

Some parents refused to give first names to their children, preferring that the children themselves should choose their own names. It is often a positive handicap to a man of parts to have an ineuphonious name. In many cases ignorant parents have gone wrong in their selection of names for their offspring, and more than once a girl baby has been called Jezebel and a boy baby Ananias. The Rev. James B. Waleiy, a Methodist minister, who preached many years in New York, told, with great enjoyment, of a lisping mother who took her baby to the font in the church to be baptized and christened. When the divine took it in his arms, preparatory to christening it, he asked the lisping mother what he should name it. The parent replied, "Luci'thir." Indignantly the minister remarked:

"Lucifer! Lucifer! Never will I name a child that." Then he continued, as he sprinkled the water upon the brow of the girl baby, "George Washington, I baptize thee," &c., and the girl was thereafter so called.

It is a fact that fashion in names changes in cycles of less than a century. At present there seems to be a tendency toward odd names. Some of the popular ones are Dorothy, Rhoda, Edna and Angeline. Ada is quite common, and Almira comes down, it would appear, from the country towns to adorn city beauties. Agatha, Viola, Maude, Jessie, Olga, Odette, Olive, Inez, Isabel, Hortense, Rosalind, Beatrice, Naomi, Mignon, Mildred, Lillian, Leonora, Kathleen, Ida, Estelle, Gertrude, Gladys, Grace, Genevieve, Gabriella, Henrietta, Edith, Felice, Fedora, Frederica, Eunice, Florence, Eloisa, Emmeline, Cora, Cynthia, Cloe, Cordelia, Beulah, Bertha, Blanche, Ruth, Veronica are among the hundreds of uncommonly odd names, chosen not only for their oddness, but for their euphoniousness as well, while their meaning adds interest to them and makes the burden of their weight an easy load to carry.

A mother sometimes delights in perpetuating the name of her grandmother, who bore the name of her great-grandmother, and thus these very old names descend by the choice of the parent. Ann nowadays sounds harsh, and Betsy seems common. Betsy comes to be Bessie and Ann Annie, and an instance is known of Mindwell having the audacity to call herself Minnie. Jerusha has printed on her visiting cards Jennie and Mehitable loves to hear herself styled Hitty.

THOSE HATS AGAIN.

An Episode at the New York Academy of Music.

Last week two gentlemen occupied seats in the orchestra of the theater, says Ladies' Every Saturday. Finding their view of the stage totally eclipsed by the headgear of two ladies directly in front of them, they politely requested the ladies to remove their hats. They refused. Then the gentlemen put on their hats—tall silk ones—and the ushers were down on them in a minute.

"We have as much right to wear our hats," they said, "as those ladies have to wear theirs. If they will take off their hats we shall take off ours. Not otherwise."

The audience laughed and the ladies blushed, but they wouldn't remove their hats, so Manager Mann sent word to the gentlemen that they could take seats in a box. This they did, and as they took their places they were heartily applauded by the audience. It was all too much for the ladies, though, and they left the house. Maybe they will leave their big hats at home when they go to the theater next time.

Choked by a Chicken Bone.

A special dispatch to The Evening Star from Richmond, Va., dated yesterday, says: Cornelius Lipscomb of Washington, father of John R. Lipscomb, chief clerk at Ford's Hotel in that city, came down from Washington Saturday to spend Sunday with his son at Old Church, in Hanover county. Yesterday, while at the dinner table, Mr. Lipscomb got choked by a chicken bone, and died before assistance could be of any avail.

THE HOTEL SIZER.

So Called Because He Sizes Up the Stranger as to What He Will Pay.

From the Philadelphia Times.

A new face was noticed the other night behind the desk of a very swell hotel. Several of a group made inquiring comment upon the presence of the stranger. An old hotel man stood by. Said he:

"Why, that is, next to the proprietor, the most valuable man about this establishment. He is a 'sizer,' the cleverest in the busines."

There was naturally a query in chorus as what was meant by a "sizer," and the hotel man explained that he was a trusted and confidential hotel employe who "sized up" what each patron of the establishment is willing to pay for the service accorded him. This is an inner mystery of the hotel business that has never publicly been revealed. Humanity is read most easily in a public hostelry. There every kind of human being is seen on full parade with all the foibles of mankind exposed to the public gaze. It is a great object lesson; an exhibition of the weaknesses and the vanities of ourselves and our fellows. The hotel man who understands this, gauges it, and feels its pulse, is a sure winner.

Hence, every hotel in the prominent cities of this country, especially in New York, which is managed upon the European plan employs a "sizer," who is paid a large salary. He must be a keen judge of human nature. When a statesman of high renown registers his name upon the hotel book this functionary fondles him with attentions, sees that he gets the best apartment in the house, and when he leaves arranges that his bill shall be small. Big statesmen are advertisements to a public house. Fellow statesmen flock around them and buy wine. Newspapers interview them, and publish the name of the hotel where they are staying. Little tadpoles in the political pond carry their gripsacks to where the big bullfrogs are croaking. The "sizer" insures such comfort to the great man that he returns to the hotel again and again until it finally becomes known as his headquarters.

But some one must pay for what the great statesman does not. This is generally the newly rich fellow. The "sizer" demonstrates his ability by the estimate he places upon people of this class. There is probably a popular impression to the effect that in all the swell hotels in the large cities there is a regular price fixed for the occupancy of each room, depending upon its size, the floor it is on, and whether it has parlor and bath room connections. There was never a more mistaken idea. The "sizer" determines what you shall pay. His eyes fathom not only your pocket book, but your disposition. Many men, especially the newly rich, although they may not know how to live at home, like a princely estimate placed upon their tastes and habits when they are traveling. To such as these the "sizer" says:

"My dear sir, I am so glad that we have the bridal chamber vacant. I know nothing less would satisfy you. It has just been vacated by Mr. Astorbilt, and I am delighted that I am enabled to accommodate you with that suite of apartments."

TRAINING LOCOMOTIVES.

They Need to Be Handled With the Same Care as Race Horses.

From the Philadelphia Record.

It may not be generally known that locomotives intended for express trains require as much training, in their way, for fast running as to do race horses. The Pennsylvania Railroad Company builds its own engines, and those built for express trains are known as class P. They are very large, and built, with slight variations, after the pattern of the big English engine imported into this country several years ago, and which at that time was a curiosity in its way. When one of these big engines was taken out of the shops to be placed on the road, instead of putting it to the work it is intended for at once, it is run for two or three weeks on some one of the local branches, in order to train it, so to speak, for faster running. By this means all the bearings and journals connected with the running gear become settled to their work; for, should anything about the new machine not work harmoniously, there is ample time to adjust the defect. Usually the new engine proves troublesome on account of its propensity to make fast time, and at almost every station the train is found to be a little ahead of schedule time, and must wait for from ten seconds to a minute. No. 180, of class P, will be running one day on an accommodation train, but will soon be flying over the road as an express at the rate, in many places, of a mile a minute.

How He Escaped.

From the Chicago Record.

"Say, Jimmie, 'd yer ma lick yer?"

"Naw, you bet she didn't."

"Gee! you got off easy."

"Yep; you see she was 'fraid I'd holler so loud I'd wake the baby."

After the Raffle.

From Life.

Uncle 'Rastus—"I done won dat turkey at de raffle tonight."

Aunt Dinah—"Yo' was lucky, eh?"

"Yas, I was po'ful lucky. While de res' was shakin' dice I 'scused myse'f."